

From: Paul Baranich
To: Rick Jones
Date: 1/21/2009 3:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: EPA contact needed for Mecca area inspection

I meant to send this to you as well...

>>> "Johns, Joseph (USACAC)" <Joseph.Johns@usdoj.gov> 1/21/2009 11:43 AM >>>
Can you forward to Roger Kintz?

Thanks.

PS- HAPPY @\$%#@ NEW YEAR!!

Joseph O. Johns
Chief, Environmental Crimes Section
United States Attorneys Office for the Central District of California
United States Courthouse, 13th Floor
312 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
T: 213.894.4536 F: 213.534.4300 joseph.johns@usdoj.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Pym, Sheri (USACAC)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 10:31 AM
To: Johns, Joseph (USACAC)
Subject: EPA contact needed for Mecca area inspection

I received a call this morning from Jim Ray of Riverside County Hazmat regarding a problem emanating from the Cabazon reservation, where Ray says he has no regulatory jurisdiction. The details are hazy, but apparently the Cabazons have an enterprise zone on their lands on which they have allowed a non-Cabazon-owned entity to set up a plant to treat

soil contaminated by petroleum. Ray forwarded to me the e-mail below in which a Mecca fire captain says he observed pools of oil out there that appear to be coming from the plant and appear to be dangerous, possibly leaking into groundwater, etc. He believes it's a pretty urgent situation.

Because the local Hazmat has no regulatory jurisdiction there, Ray was thinking that perhaps EPA could go out and take a look at this. I can try to call around, but do you happen to know who a good person to call at EPA about this would be?

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Ray [<mailto:JRay@co.riverside.ca.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 10:13 AM

To: Pym, Sheri (USACAC)

Subject: [WARNING - NOT VIRUS SCANNED] [WARNING - NOT VIRUS SCANNED]

Fwd: FW: Adress for WesternEnviornmental

>>> "Jim Ray" <JRay@co.riverside.ca.us> 1/21/2009 10:09 AM >>>

>>> "Jim Ray" <JRay@co.riverside.ca.us> 1/21/2009 10:05 AM >>>

>>> "Jim Ray" <JRay@co.riverside.ca.us> 1/21/2009 10:03 AM >>>

>>> Jim Sappington 1/20/2009 3:30 PM >>>

This appears to be a facility...

>>> "Gaines, Kevin" <Kevin.Gaines@fire.ca.gov> 01/20/09 2:49 PM >>>

Kevin Gaines

Battalion Chief

CAL FIRE

Riverside Unit

210 W. San Jacinto Ave.

Perris CA 92570

Cell (951) 377-8186

Office (951) 922-1437

Kevin.Gaines@fire.ca.gov <<mailto:Kevin.Gaines@fire.ca.gov%20>>

CDF Web Site <<http://www.fire.ca.gov/><http://www.fire.ca.gov/>>
www.fire.ca.gov

RVC Fire Web Site www.rvcfire.org

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From: RRU Mecca Stn
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 2:49 PM
To: Gaines, Kevin
Cc: Gregg, Alex
Subject: Adress for Western Enviornmental

Chief,

Here is the address and phone contact info as requested.

Joe Hammel

On Site Manager

62-150 Gene Wilmas Drive

Mecca, CA 92254

(760) 396-0222 Office

(760) 296-9416 Cell

Let us know if there is anything else that we can do.

Chief,

Engine 40 and 42 were at Western Environmental reviewing a preplan that FAE Tarrango is working on completing. While there I observed a number of oil laden "lakes". They might have contained all oil. One was at least 10,000 gallons. It was only contained by earth berms. This was an above grade "pool". Similar to an irrigation holding pond, but clearly improvised. There was obvious seepage in multiple areas around the berms. None of these areas were lined with any other materials. I know this company has permits to some degree, but based on my observations I doubt this is permitted. Based on the ground water level being very close to the surface I would have grave concerns that this is possibly contaminating the water table. Please advise if you need any further information. Captain Gonzales from Station 35 was working OT and observed the same conditions.

Robert Fish

Fire Captain-Paramedic

CALFIRE & Riverside County Fire

Battalion 6 Paramedic Coordinator

Station 40